

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Poland REPORT

TOPIC Troops and Military Installations in Ortelsburg (Szczytno) 25X1

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 7 October 1954 25X1

REFERENCES 2

PAGES ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1

REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. Prior to January 1954, the former Jaeger Kaserne on the eastern perimeter of Ortelsburg (R 54/E 93) and on the north side of the road to Olschienen (R 54/A 03), was occupied to capacity by Polish troops who wore khaki uniforms and red service color. Most of the buildings, only some of which had been damaged during the war, were located on the north side of the street. Some other barracks which were located on the south side of the street had been integrated into the installation. A soldier who served with a unit stationed at Suwaiki (S 55/B 29) said that a complete infantry regiment was stationed at Ortelsburg. Soldiers were always observed in the station area. The unit had its own band. Units leaving the installation were equipped with small arms, light and heavy machine guns, mortars which were carried in two loads, and other mortars of a heavier model which rode on two pneumatic-tired wheels and were towed by trucks. The troops also had about eight armored vehicles which, it was believed, had no revolving turrets and were probably SU-100 SP guns. The unit stationed at Ortelsburg apparently had many trucks. Combat training was held in the area about 1.5 kilometers east of the installation, on both sides of the road to Olschienen, near the former Schuetzenhaus (rifle club house). Another training site was located between the northeastern perimeter of the city and the town of Lehmanen (R 54/A 03). This site included an obstacle course which was located northwest of the road to Lehmanen. Prior to January 1954, a Polish recruiting office (WKR) was stationed at Ortelsburg. 1 25X1
2. Prior to January 1954, a Polish cadet school of 400 to 500 students was also observed in Ortelsburg. The locations of the cadets' billets were unknown. During the summer, the cadets wore light-brown uniforms with brown garrison caps and, off duty, black blouses, long black trousers with red pipings and black visor-type service caps with red bands. The cadet school also had a band of its own. A soldier on leave from Krakow said that a cadet school was also located in this city. Before being admitted to the school, the students, allegedly, had to pledge themselves to become regular soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces. 2

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1. Comment. A previous report by another source, dated January 1954, agrees with the present information on the occupation of the Jaeger Kaserne. The tank SP regiment of the 15th Div was earlier believed to be quartered in the installation, but the present report tends to indicate that an infantry regiment with an SP battery is stationed there. 25X1
2. Comment. Reference report indicates that the cadet school is also located in the Jaeger Kaserne. 25X1

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REPORT

TOPIC 1. Troops and Military Installations in Oppeln (Opole)
2. WOP Unit in Leobschuetz (Glubczyce)
3. Labor Battalion 3207 in Chorzow

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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REMARKS

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1. Prior to May 1954, the old barracks installation on the south side of ul. Ozimska in the eastern sector of Oppeln was occupied to capacity by Polish troops who wore khaki uniforms and caps with red bands. Their strength was estimated at not less than two battalions. Numerous trucks equipped for the transportation of personnel and a smaller number of jeep-like vehicles were parked in the yard of the installation. No armored vehicles were observed there. Convoys of five or six trucks which were occupied by soldiers occasionally left the billets.
2. Prior to the spring of 1954, Polish soldiers who wore khaki uniforms and caps with red bands were observed in the barracks installation on the west side of the road to Neustadt (P 51/H 93) in the suburb of Stefanshoeh. Companies of this unit frequently left the installation for combat training. In December 1953, one tank, probably a T-34, was observed leaving the installation. No other heavy weapons or a large number of motor vehicles were observed at these billets. 1
3. In the spring of 1954, a Polish sentry who wore a blue gray uniform was observed in front of the former Nachrichten Kaserne west of the Oder River and just north of the railroad line to Brieg (P 51/H 89). Prior to the spring of 1954, groups of not more than eight T-34 tanks were observed at this installation. In April 1951, the members of a Polish labor battalion had to report to the Polish station headquarters which was located in this installation. This office which at that time was housed in the first building on the right-hand side of the gate was still observed there in May 1954. 1
4. No information was available on the large barracks installations on the southwestern perimeter of Halbendorf (P 51/J 17). The same applies to a high-echelon command agency stationed at the town. It was, however, believed that such an agency might be located in the barracks installations near Halbendorf. 1

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5. Prior to the spring of 1954, a fuel depot which was guarded by soldiers was located in the area of a former factory, 500 to 600 meters southeast of the main railroad station of Oppeln and on the northeast side of the tracks which led from the station toward Peiskretscham (Q 51/Y 38). Heavy military motor traffic was frequently observed at the installation at which large piles of gasoline barrels were stored in buildings and in the open. About 10 to 15 large tanks which came from former municipal service stations and were partly buried or completely buried were also observed. The depot was served by a railroad spur. 1

6. In April 1954 members of the 1934 class were registered and inducted soon afterwards. Other elements of the same class were scheduled to be inducted in the fall of 1954. Members of the 1930 class were discharged in the fall of 1953 and members of the 1931 class were discharged in April 1954.

7. In early June 1954, a WOP (border guard) unit of an estimated 200 men was observed in Leobschuetz (P 51/J 12). Local residents said that this unit included a headquarters which interrogated illegal border-crossers. 2

8. Prior to the end of the summer of 1951, military unit [redacted] the 3rd Co of Labor Battalion 3207, was stationed in Chorzow (Q 51/Y 57). The soldiers of the unit worked in the "President" Pit. The battalion was subordinate to a headquarters in Katowice which controlled nine more battalions of the same type. Former soldiers of these units said that by 1953 the number of the battalions working in this area had been increased to twenty. In 1953, the battalions still had the [redacted]

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Comment. [redacted]

in 1953,

particularly after the fall maneuvers, more motorized infantry units were observed in Oppeln where tank troops had been usually stationed before. It cannot be determined that the units which are now stationed at Oppeln are component units of the 10th Necz Div.

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Comment.

This unit probably belongs to the 43d WOP Bn stationed at Ratibor. [redacted]

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